

# Woodbury City Update

August 2020 • Volume 21, No. 7



*Officer James Stoffel and his new K-9 partner, Ruby, graduated from McDonough's K-9 Academy in June.*

## 'Ruby' joins K-9 Unit

The Woodbury Public Safety Department has a new K-9 officer. Ruby, a 2-year-old Dutch shepherd and Woodbury's first female K-9 officer, graduated from McDonough's K-9 Academy in June.

Ruby and her handler, Officer James Stoffel, spent seven weeks training at the academy. During training, Ruby developed multiple skills including basic obedience, agility, article searching and tracking, building searching, and apprehension that helped set a foundation for the work she will be performing for the Public Safety Department. She is certified for patrol and narcotics detection.

In addition to patrol duty, the new "recruit" will assist in making community appearances and giving K-9 demonstrations at events.

Officer Stoffel and Ruby are the fourth partners in the Woodbury K-9 Unit, joining Cirrus (Sgt. Natalie Bauer), Nova (Officer Brian Cline) and Roguen (Officer Tony Ofstead).



*Officer Tony Ofstead (left), one of Woodbury's four K-9 handlers, poses with Officer James Stoffel.*

## Woodbury Police K-9 Fund

Support for Woodbury K-9 programs is provided by the Woodbury Police K-9 Fund, a non-profit group that helps provide dogs, equipment and training for the K-9 team.

Anyone interested in supporting the Woodbury K-9 program should visit the Woodbury Police K-9 Fund website at [woodburyk9fund.org](http://woodburyk9fund.org).

## 2021 city budget to be discussed at Sept. 16 workshop

The City Council will review the proposed 2021 city budget at a workshop meeting scheduled Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Public Safety Building. The meeting, which is open to the public, will start at 4 p.m. and continue into the evening until all department budgets have been evaluated.

At the workshop, the Council will discuss city services and funding levels for 2021, as well as a variety of issues that affect the 2021 property tax levy. Information about the budget will be available on the Woodbury website ([woodburymn.gov](http://woodburymn.gov)) and through the Finance Department at City Hall several days prior to the workshop.

"If residents and businesses want to learn more about the proposed budget and provide input, they should attend the workshop," explained Mayor Anne Burt.

Woodbury's budget process follows a timetable established by state law. The City Council must set the maximum tax levy by Sept. 30. This is the amount published in the truth-in-taxation notices mailed out by Washington County, usually in mid-November. The Sept. 16 workshop permits thorough review of projected expenses and revenues in advance of the Sept. 30 deadline.

State law also requires the city to hold a public discussion on the budget. This discussion is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 9. However, citizens interested in the Council's most detailed dialogue about the budget are urged to attend the September workshop, which will be held in the training room at the Public Safety facility, 2100 Radio Drive.



## Virtual participation

For those who wish to attend the workshop in person, seating in the Public Education Room at the Public Safety Building will be arranged to accommodate physical distancing (chairs placed 6 feet apart). Masks are required, but note that those wearing a mask who wish to comment during the meeting will be asked to remove their mask while speaking.

The public also has the option of participating in the meeting online using a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device. Questions and comments may be submitted via the online Q&A feature within the virtual meeting. Links to the virtual participation options will be shared at [woodburymn.gov/virtual-meetings](http://woodburymn.gov/virtual-meetings) when the meeting agenda is posted on the city's website. Refer to the Participating in a Virtual Meeting Guide on the city's website for more information.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at 651-714-3502 or send an email to [finance@woodburymn.gov](mailto:finance@woodburymn.gov).

# Council Perspective

By Mayor Anne Burt

## How your local government works

With local governments across the state in the news recently, I've been fielding more questions from the community about how Woodbury's government works in comparison to other local municipalities. I want to explain some of these important differences and share more about the Woodbury City Council's role in operating the city.

Minnesota law provides for two basic types of cities: statutory cities operating under one of three "plans" or forms of organization created by the state legislature, and home rule charter cities operating under a local charter. Statutory cities, like Woodbury, are the most common type of city in the state.

There are different types of statutory cities. Woodbury is a Statutory A city, meaning our government is set up as a mayor-city council form of government consisting of an elected mayor and four or six council members (four in Woodbury's case). The City Council directly appoints and oversees the city administrator. As chief administrative officer, the administrator is responsible for all operations of our city and the management of the city's workforce, including employee appointment nominations, implementation of City Council policies, enforcement of ordinances and preparation of the annual budget. Woodbury's city administrator is Clint Gridley and he's served in this role since 2004.

Our role as a City Council in Woodbury is focused on policy and oversight, not the day-to-day operations. There is no "mayor's office" with a separate group of "mayor's" staff serving directly under me. Each Council member and I all have part-time roles – we balance our professional careers while doing our best to serve our community. I receive a salary of \$14,946 per year; Council members are paid \$11,379.96 per year.

Our City Council members – including myself as mayor – are elected and serve "at-large," meaning we represent the interests of the whole community, not just a specific district or a ward like many other cities. We also

serve on a non-partisan basis, unlike federal and state elected officials, which typically emerge from party-based primaries. We do not officially affiliate with a political party, and partisanship has not been part of Woodbury's policy-making. We act as one body based on majority vote or direction. No single council member – including me as mayor – has authority to themselves, it rests in the majority.

This structure varies greatly from "charter" communities such as Minneapolis and St. Paul, where the mayors have more administrative duties and full-time roles. Another significant difference is that these two cities' police chiefs report directly to their mayor.

So you can see how cities are structured differently yet deliver similar critical services to their residents. Now, I want to share more about how we prioritize our work here in Woodbury.

### Critical Success Factors

In Woodbury, there are six components that we feel are essential to the success of the community. These are the guiding principles that govern our strategic planning for Woodbury's future. The six components are: safety, quality of life, business climate, youth development and education, city services and environmental stewardship.

### Strategic issues

In addition to ensuring success in these six areas, every two years, the City Council reserves time for studying emerging, critical issues facing Woodbury. The City Council identifies two to four urgent, high priority focus areas. Staff then designates an implementation team with a clearly identified team leader; develops a plan with clear goals, milestones and performance measures; and reports to Council at least once a year on outcomes or as dictated by the initiative timeline.

The strategic issues for the 2019-2021 cycle are:

■ **Adapt and Enhance Public Safety Effectiveness** – recognizing our community is diversifying and aging, and identifying how these changes affect service demands and how services are provided. The public safety environment is also changing and will continue to change due to local demographics, service demands, labor negotiations, city growth and development, how services are funded, city staffing and succession, state and national political influence, and more.

■ **Ensure Long-Term Drinking Water Sustainability** – providing the necessary research and information to ensure the City Council can make informed, long-term and strategic decisions regarding the future of the City of Woodbury's water quality, treatment, and its financial sustainability into the future.

■ **Ensure Our Parks and Trails Meet the Needs of a Growing and Changing Community** – preserving and enhancing our extensive parks, forestry and recreation system through a financial plan to sustain them into the future.

We selected these strategic focus areas last summer, and the work we have done to this point will help guide our decisions in the coming months.

I know you all lead busy lives and it's challenging to find time to closely follow how we conduct the city's regular business. So the next time you see a story on the news about how another city provides services to its residents and businesses, just remember that they may have a different form of local government and operate differently than we do.

## Face coverings now required

On July 22, Gov. Tim Walz announced Executive Order 20-81, requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces and indoor businesses, unless you are alone. The mandate went into effect July 25. The purpose of the order is to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus when combined with other prevention efforts such as social distancing and hand hygiene.

Types of face coverings can include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a neck gaiter, a scarf, a bandanna, or a religious face covering. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.

"We need the Woodbury community's support in following the mask requirement," said Mayor Anne Burt. "It is important for protecting our friends, neighbors and visitors, and keeping our businesses open."

As part of this effort, the State of Minnesota has provided 125,000 disposable masks for customers using Washington County businesses. The masks were distributed to businesses through the Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce in late July.

### When it is required to wear a face covering?

- In all public indoor spaces and businesses, including when waiting outside to enter the public indoor space or business.
- When riding on public transportation such as buses or trains, or in a taxi, ride-sharing vehicle, or vehicle that is being used for a business purpose.
- For workers only: When working outdoors in situations where social

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The Woodbury newsletter is published 10 times per year by the City of Woodbury and mailed to all residents and businesses. Send comments to: Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-3330. Phone: 651-714-3500. Email: [jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov](mailto:jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov).

Mayor: Anne Burt. Council Members: Andrea Date, Steve Morris, Jennifer Santini and Amy Scoggins. City Administrator: Clint Gridley. Communications Manager: Jason Egerstrom.

The City of Woodbury is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with the act, the Woodbury newsletter is available in other formats. Call Jason Egerstrom, 651-714-3500; TDD: 651-714-3568.



# Enter the annual photo contest sponsored by *Woodbury Magazine*

Help the City of Woodbury showcase the community and its residents by submitting photos in the 22nd annual Focus on Woodbury Photo Contest.

The competition, sponsored by *Woodbury Magazine*, drew 243 entries last year. It is open to all residents and employees of Woodbury businesses to submit their favorite photos.

## Contest categories

Images must be captured in Woodbury, and can be placed into one of five categories:

- **People** – people living, working and enjoying themselves in the community
- **Events** – community gatherings, sporting events, etc.
- **Landmarks** – businesses, buildings and cityscapes
- **Nature** – plants, parks, animals in nature, natural landscapes

## ■ **Pets** – domestic animals

*Woodbury Magazine* readers will have the opportunity to vote in September for the Readers' Choice winner.

*Woodbury Magazine* reserves the right to move a photo into a different category than specified on the entry form, if the judges deem it appropriate, or disqualify an image.

## How to enter

Contest entries must be submitted online at [woodburymag.com](http://woodburymag.com) between Aug. 1 and Aug. 31. On the website, select the "Focus on Woodbury" photo contest article and complete the short form with required fields. Each individual may submit a maximum of five entries, but no more than three in any one category.

Contestants must follow all rules or their entry will be disqualified. See rules and guidelines below or at [woodburymag.com/focus-woodbury-2020-photo-contest](http://woodburymag.com/focus-woodbury-2020-photo-contest).



*"Polar Vortex - Plowing Driveway Snow" by Manjinder Kaur Papial  
Honorable mention, Landmarks category, 2020 Focus on Woodbury photo contest*

Winners of the photo contest will be announced in early October and entrant photos displayed online in September.

First place winners and runners-up will be announced for each category. First place entries will be published

in the city newsletter. Selected photos also will be published in *Woodbury Magazine*.

Questions should be directed to Anthony Bettin, digital content editor of *Woodbury Magazine*, at [anthony.bettin@tigeroak.com](mailto:anthony.bettin@tigeroak.com).

## Focus on Woodbury Photo Contest rules and guidelines

- Photos must be taken in Woodbury between Sept. 1, 2019, and Aug. 31, 2020.
- Each photo entry must include an online submission including the photographer's name, address, phone number and email address; age (if under 18); intended category for the photo and title of the photo.
- Photo submissions that do not include the required contact information will not be considered.
- Photo submissions with professional logos or watermarks will not be considered.
- Photos must be submitted through [woodburymag.com](http://woodburymag.com). Files must be less than 2 MB in size to be considered.
- Participants must have permission from any persons pictured in the photo to use that photo and permission of a parent in the case of minors. Subject permissions must be obtained before submitting photos to the Focus on Woodbury Photo Contest. *Woodbury Magazine* is not responsible for obtaining subject permissions.
- Photos may be reproduced by the magazine and the City of Woodbury.
- Once submitted, the entrant grants publishing rights (both print and digital) to *Woodbury Magazine*, as well as the City of Woodbury.
- Each individual may submit a total of five photos.
- Contest organizers reserve the right to disqualify or re-categorize any photo.
- Contest winners will be selected by a panel of judges assembled by *Woodbury Magazine*.
- The contest Readers' Choice winner will be selected separately by voters on *Woodbury Magazine's* website ([woodburymag.com](http://woodburymag.com)).
- Winners will be notified on or around Oct. 1. First place winners also will be published in the City Update newsletter.
- All decisions will be final; judges reserve the right to award a winner in any category.
- *Woodbury Magazine* will not be responsible for lost entries.
- Depending on the number of entrants, a winner may be chosen for each category as well as an overall winner. A "Readers' Choice" award may also be given based on votes received on the *Woodbury Magazine* website between Sept. 9 and Sept. 30.
- Select photographs may also be featured in future print *Woodbury Magazine* articles and promotions, as well as on *Woodbury Magazine's* website and social media pages. Photos also may be featured in City of Woodbury publications, on the city's website, and on its social media accounts.



For more information or questions about the contest, email web editor Anthony Bettin at [anthony.bettin@tigeroak.com](mailto:anthony.bettin@tigeroak.com). Please specify the magazine or community associated with your questions, and provide as much detail as possible.

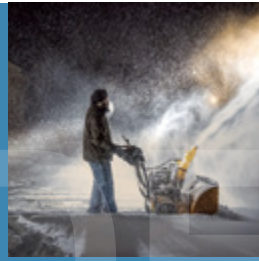
**NOTE: Contestants must follow all rules or their entry could be disqualified.**



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K-9 unit**  
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**Proposed 2021 city  
budget review**  
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photo contest**  
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## Woodbury Days 2020 canceled

Woodbury Days – the annual community celebration held each August at Ojibway Park – is canceled for 2020.

The Woodbury Days Council – a group of community volunteers who organize the event each year – said it was too difficult to hold the event and ensure the safety of its 35,000 visitors and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Woodbury looks forward to celebrating Woodbury Days with the community in 2021! The Woodbury Days Council is seeking volunteers for next year's event. Visit [woodburydays.com](http://woodburydays.com) and select the "Volunteer" link to learn more and sign up. Questions should be directed to [volunteer@woodburydays.com](mailto:volunteer@woodburydays.com).

Postal Patron  
Woodbury, MN

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## HERO Center range now open to the public

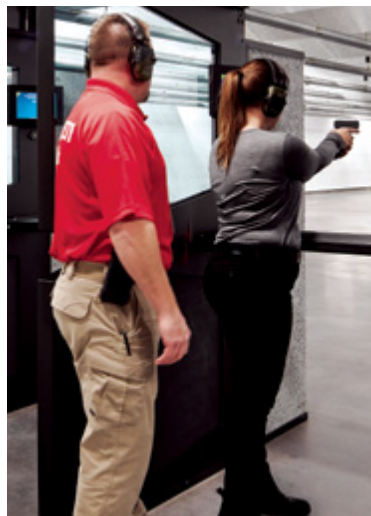
The indoor shooting range at the Health Emergency Response Occupations (HERO) Training Center in Cottage Grove is now open to the public.

Twelve, 50-yard lanes are available for rent between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays. The public is encouraged to log on to [herocentermn.org/shooting-range](http://herocentermn.org/shooting-range) to reserve lanes, fill out waiver forms and find pricing. Walk-ins also are accepted.

Safety officers are always inside the range during public shooting hours to help maintain a safe, family-friendly range environment.

For more information, visit [herocentermn.org](http://herocentermn.org) or call 651-458-2811.

The HERO Center is located at 10125



85th Street South in Cottage Grove, adjacent to the Cottage Grove City Hall and Public Safety Building. The facility is jointly owned and operated by the cities of Cottage Grove and Woodbury.

## Face coverings...from page 1

distancing (i.e., maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals who are not in the same household) cannot be maintained.

- When present in a business, whether indoor or outdoor, that has elected to require face coverings. Businesses are allowed to require face coverings even in situations where face coverings are not otherwise required by Executive Order 20-81.
- When applicable industry guidance, available at [staysafe.mn.gov](http://staysafe.mn.gov), specifically requires face coverings.

Learn more about the requirement at [health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html](http://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html).

The situation is changing rapidly. Visit [health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html) for the most up-to-date information and follow the



Minnesota Department of Health on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to stay informed.

For updates about how COVID-19 is impacting city operations, visit [woodburymn.gov/COVID-19](http://woodburymn.gov/COVID-19).

### Minnesota Helpline

For questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, call 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.